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OCT 13 2015

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

October 5, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The La Porte County Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above referenced proceeding. The La Porte County Sheriff's Office supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to this Office in support of the NSA's position that Sheriff's must be allowed to recover their costs if the Inmate Calling Services (ICS) are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provisions of the ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate access to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls nine hours per day, seven days each week. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

Our budget has not kept pace with our cost to operate in recent years. In addition to security and administrative functions that must be maintained, there are programs for inmates that we are required to maintain by law. If the cost of allowing ICS must compete with all other budget needs, it may not be funded. However, if the cost of allowing ICS has its own source of funding, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process.

Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in our jails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

John T. Boyd,
Sheriff

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